

Turtleback Trail Segment

Planning Meeting

November 7, 2019

Present:

Attila Bality, NPS

John Masterson, MainStreet/runner

Linda DeMarino, MainStreet

Gina Kelley, Hot Springs Marketing

Debbie Stubblefield, Village of Williamsburg

Kim Skinner, Sierra County Tourism/City of Elephant Butte

Desired Outcome: An understanding of the planning process proposed by the NPS

Relevant Updates:

- The Bureau of Reclamation is interested in turning over a tract of land to Village of Williamsburg
- There is OHV park planning occurring North of EB Reservoir
- Wilson & Company is updating the City of Tucumcari Comprehensive Plan

Project Scope

Immediate focus is accessing the East side of the Rio Grande with a new pedestrian scale bridge, constructing/improving a trail route South to the Village of Williamsburg and crossing over the Rio Grande on another pedestrian bridge into Williamsburg. Secondary focus would be expansion of non-motorized trails on the East side of the Rio Grande on BLM, State and BOR lands and; improving river launch sites at several locations to promote a complementary "paddle trail" from Elephant Butte dam to Williamsburg.

Proposed Workplan Key Elements

1. Create Planning Teams
2. Establish our collective Vision and Goals for this Rio Grande Trail segment
3. Identify Opportunities and Constraints
4. Develop Design Concepts (bridges, trail corridor profile, etc)
5. Identify Implementable Actions and Produce Document

Attila reviewed with everyone a draft workplan so that the team can begin developing a strategy to complete a planning document for the National Park Service in relation to the City of T or C's application for the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

Jornada RC&D will serve as the lead with Hot Springs Marketing as co-chair.

Group felt the document was a very good start and began identifying items/people on the workplan. Group felt that two groups would be a good method to keep momentum going but keeping collaborators/partners in the loop. An Advisory Group will be represented by local community and elected leaders. A Project team will be responsible for identifying and agreeing to carry out tasks associated with this planning process.

Team 1: (Project Team)

Merry Jo Fahl -jornada RC&D
Bill Sallee - Village of Williamsburg
Heidi Hubble - Armendaris/Ladder ranch – **Merry Jo to contact**
Kim Skinner - Sierra County Tourism
Traci Burnette (?) City of T or C- **Merry Jo to ask Sandy W**
(?) County of Sierra -**Merry Jo to find someone**
(?) NM State Parks – **Attila to find someone**
Gina Kelley - Hot Springs Marketing
Linda DeMarino - MainStreet
John Masterson - MainStreet/running club
(?) Health Council-**Merry Jo to find someone**
(?) 4-H, FFA – **Merry Jo to find someone**
(?) JROTC- **Merry Jo to find**
(?) Cross Country team – **Merry Jo to find**
(?) Back Country Horsemen – **Merry Jo to find**
(?) Wildlife representative- **Merry Jo to find**
Capitan Bob- **Merry Jo to call**
Travis Day - sierra **SWCD Merry Jo to ask**

Team 2: (advisory committee)

City of T or C
Village of Williamsburg
City of Elephant Butte
County of Sierra
Representative Rebecca Dow
BLM Recreation staff – **Attila to contact**
Brent Tanzy, BOR -**Attila to contact**

Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement shall be a cornerstone of this planning process. If a desired outcome is to have more community members invested in stewardship of the local trails, everyone should have an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the vision, goals, issues and opportunities. Civic Engagement strategies and timing should align with the workplan key elements and outcomes.

A project kick-off community meeting in January was suggested. Outcomes from this meeting might include: an understanding of the Rio Grande Trail vision and designation process, vision and goal exercises and preliminary crowd-sourced mapping exercises.

Several local winter events were identified that would allow the Project Team to share information about this project -- Old Fashioned Christmas, Winter Farmers Market.

Other immediate outreach tools we need to create are:

- ✓ Project Fact Sheet
- ✓ Opportunities for engagement calendar
- ✓ Social Media strategies
- ✓ News Release in December announcing project and date for community meeting

Other notes:

Design- Merry Jo stated that at one point the USFS Gila National Forest was willing to assist with footbridge design-**she will contact them**

Maintenance- must be identified who is responsible-perhaps develop a JPA with City, County and Village

Next meeting-Mid December

1. CREATE OUR PLANNING TEAM

Objective: To establish a collaborative planning process with key partners to support planning and ongoing plan implementation

Actions:	Who	When	Notes
1.1 Convene a preliminary meeting of key partners to introduce the project and RTCA's approach for local technical assistance			
1.2 Identify major planning steps, timeline and responsibilities			
1.3 Identify strategic partners to participate on planning team			
1.4 Develop civic engagement strategies for Workplan sections			
1.5 Organize site visit /familiarization tour for planning team			
1.6 Establish planning team structure and decision making process			

Outcomes: Collaborative Planning Team, Agreed upon workplan elements

2. Establish Trail Vision & Goals

Objective: To identify a unified community vision and goals for Turtleback Mtn RGT Segment Trail

Actions:	Who	When	Notes
2.1 Identify "big ideas" and goals for the park from Planning Team			
2.2 Meet with stakeholders, community groups for input for vision and goals			
2.3 Incorporate public health strategies/goals into park planning			
2.3 Provide opportunities for public input on vision/goals			
2.4 Synthesize input and prepare a park vision and goals statement			

Outcomes: Trail Vision and Goals Statement

3. Identify Opportunities and Constraints

Objective: Identify and compile recreation, tourism, economic development opportunities, Access Connections, and Issues or

Actions:	Who	When	Notes
3.1 Explore Pedestrian Bridge possibilities			
3.2 Compile photo inventory of existing conditions, resources, hazards, etc			
3.3 Complete mapping exercise to illustrate possibilities			
3.4 Organize community activity/event to solicit additional ideas			
3.5 Synthesize input and prepare a opportunities and constraints analysis			

Outcomes: Existing Conditions Map, Potential Trail Network, Analysis

4. Develop Design Concepts

Objective: Develop Visual Concepts of community ideas for Trail improvements

Actions:	Who	When	Notes
4.1 Plan Charrette exercise			
4.2 Workshop Logistics			
4.3 Community feedback on visual park concepts			
4.4 Refine concepts based on community input and review			
4.5 Seek community input on implementation priorities			

Outcomes: Draft Design Concepts

5. Produce Trail Corridor Action Plan

Objective: Produce Final Plan for Local Govt. Approval

Actions:	Who	When	Notes
5.1 Identify park management, maintenance and community stewardship opportunities / policies needed			
5.2 Establish document outline and compile text for each section			
5.3 Finalize maps, images and text for document compilation			
5.4 Gather input on funding, partnerships and other opportunities that support implementation			
5.5 Present plan with community support to Council/Commission for			

Outcomes: Adopted Concept Plan

